

REMARKS

Upon entry of this paper, claim 19 has been amended, claims 7, 18, 28, and 35 have been previously cancelled, and no claims have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-17, 19-27, and 29-34 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 19-27 and 29-31

Claims 19-27 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons stated in the Office Action of March 10, 2004. Specifically, antecedent basis was deemed insufficient for the limitation “said access port”.

Applicants have amended claim 19 to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrase “said access port”. Accordingly, withdrawal of all 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 20-27 and 29-31 depend from claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-27 and 29-31 are likewise in condition for allowance based in part on their dependence upon an allowable base claim, in addition to their own claim characteristics.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Action to that end is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants courteously solicit allowance of the claims in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should there be any outstanding issues of patentability following the entry of this response, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve such issues.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized to be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: June 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Sean D. Detweiler

Registration No.: 42,482

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant